Serial No.: 09/738,103 Docket No.: K-C 16029

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Coated activated carbon comprising activated carbon particles coated with a water-insoluble coating material effective to mask a color of the activated carbon particles, the coating material including a masking agent and a water-insoluble binding agent effective to bind the masking agent to the activated carbon particles, the coating material having an add-on level relative to the uncoated activated carbon of at least 5%, and the coated activated carbon particles having a Relative Adsorption Efficiency with respect to at least one odoriferous agent of at least 30%, the odoriferous agent being selected from the group comprising ammonia, triethylamine, trimethylamine, dimethyldisulphide, and isovaleric acid.

2. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the Relative Adsorption Efficiency is at least 50%.

3. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the Relative Adsorption Efficiency is at least 70%.

4. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the Relative Adsorption Efficiency is at least 90%.

5. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 2 or 4, wherein the odoriferous agent is ammonia.

6. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 2 or 4, wherein the odoriferous agent is trimethylamine.

7. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 2 or 4, wherein the odoriferous agent is dimethyldisulfide.

8. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the binding agent is deformable.

9. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 8, wherein the coating material has a Shore A hardness of less than about 70.

10. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 8, wherein the coating material has a Shore A hardness of less than about 50.

11. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the coating material is colored.

12. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 11, further having a HunterLab L value of at least 40 and an absolute "a" value or absolute "b" value greater than 10.

13. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the coating material is opaque and is not white or gray.

14. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, further having a Particulate Noise Level at least 2 decibels lower than that of the uncoated activated carbon.

15. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, further having a Particulate Noise Level at least 4 decibels lower than that of the uncoated activated carbon.

16. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, further having a Particulate Noise Level at least 6 decibels lower than that of the uncoated activated carbon.

17. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, further having a Particulate Noise Level of about 52 or less.

18. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, further having a Particulate Noise Level of about 50 or less.

19. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the binding agent is hydrophobic.

20. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the binding agent comprises a latex.

21. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the binding agent is formed from a compound comprising a latex.

22. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the coating material is formed from a process comprising combination of a binding agent, a pigment, and a blowing agent.

23. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, further comprising a fluoropolymer.

24. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the masking agent is more concentrated at an outer surface of the coating material than at an inner surface of the coating material.

25. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the masking agent is more concentrated at an inner surface of the coating material than at an outer surface of the coating material.

26. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 1, wherein the masking agent comprises metal oxides formed by reaction of a metal alcoxide.

27. (Currently Amended) Coated activated carbon comprising granular activated carbon coated with a colored coating material, the colored coating material including a colored masking agent and a water-insoluble binding agent effective to bind the colored masking agent to the granular activated carbon, the coated activated carbon having a HunterLab L value of at least 40 and an absolute "a" value or absolute "b" value greater than 10.

Claim 28 (Canceled).

29. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 27, wherein the binding agent comprises a silicone compound.

30. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 27, wherein the binding agent comprises a latex.

31. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 27, wherein the binding agent has a Shore A hardness of about 70 or less.

32. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 27, wherein the binding agent has a Shore A hardness of about 50 or less.

33. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 27, wherein the binding agent has a Shore A hardness of about 40 or less.

34. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 27, wherein the binding agent has a Shore A hardness of about 35 or less.

35. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 27, wherein the coating material comprises an elastomer.

36. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 27, wherein the masking agent comprises a white powder.

37. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 36, wherein the masking agent comprises titanium dioxide.

38. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claims 27 or 36, wherein the masking agent comprises a colored pigment.

39. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 27, wherein the activated carbon comprises a fibrous form.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 27, wherein the coating material is porous.

42. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 41, wherein the porous coating material is formed by the action of a blowing agent.

43. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article comprising the coated activated carbon ~~particles~~ of Claim 27.

44. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 43, wherein the article is a sanitary napkin.

45. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 43, wherein the article is intended to receive feces.

46. (Currently Amended) A face mask comprising the coated activated carbon ~~particles~~ of Claim 27.

47. (Currently Amended) Coated activated carbon comprising activated carbon particles coated with a coating material including a water-insoluble elastomeric binding agent, the coated activated carbon particles having a Relative Efficiency for Adsorption of Ammonia of at least 30%.

48. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 47, wherein the coating material comprises a non-white pigment.

49. (Original) The coated activated carbon of Claim 47, wherein the elastomer comprises a silicone.

50. (Previously Presented) The coated activated carbon of Claim 47, wherein the coating material comprises a colored pigment, such that the coated activated carbon has a HunterLab L value of at least 40 and an absolute "a" value or absolute "b" value greater than 10.

51. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article comprising the coated activated carbon particles of Claim 47.

52. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 51, wherein the article is a sanitary napkin.

53. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 51, wherein the article is intended to receive feces.

54. (Previously Presented) A face mask comprising the coated activated carbon particles of Claim 47.

55. (Previously Presented) Activated carbon particles coated with a colored coating material, the colored coating material comprising a deformable

water-insoluble binding agent having a Shore A hardness of less than 70 and having an absolute HunterLab "a" value or absolute HunterLab "b" value greater than 10.

56. (Original) The activated carbon particles of Claim 55 having a mean particle size less than 5 mm.

57. (Original) The activated carbon particles of Claim 56 having a mean particle size less than 2 mm.

58. (Currently Amended) ~~An activated~~ Activated carbon ~~material~~ particles coated with a coating material comprising a water-insoluble binding agent and a pigment effective to mask a color of the activated carbon particles, wherein the color of the coated activated carbon ~~material~~ particles is neither white, gray, nor black.

59. (Currently Amended) The activated carbon ~~material~~ particles of Claim 58 having a Shore A hardness of about 70 or less.

60. (Currently Amended) The activated carbon ~~material~~ particles of Claim 58, wherein the binding agent is formed from a mixture comprising a silicone latex.

Claims 61-79 (Canceled).

80. (Currently Amended) A composition for removal of an odiferous agent, comprising:

a quantity of activated carbon particles;

a water-insoluble coating material on a surface of the activated carbon particles effective to mask a color of the activated carbon;

the water-insoluble coating material including at least one of an opaque masking agent and a colored masking agent and a water-insoluble binding agent that binds the masking agent to the surface of the activated carbon particles;

wherein the composition has a Relative Adsorption Efficiency with respect to at least one odoriferous agent of at least 30%, the odoriferous agent being selected from a group comprising ammonia, triethylamine, trimethylamine, dimethyldisulphide, and isovaleric acid.

81. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 80, wherein the binding agent includes an elastomer.

82. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 80, wherein the binding agent includes a polymer selected from a group consisting of latex, a silicone compound, and combinations thereof.

83. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 80, wherein the coating material includes a blowing agent.

84. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 80, wherein the coating material is porous.